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Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 04258 231641Z

51
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CU-02 SY-05 USSS-00 SCCT-01 EUR-12 DODE-00

OC-05 CCO-00 OPR-02 PM-03 INR-07 CIAE-00 INRE-00 L-02

H-02 PRS-01 /073 W
---------- 038770
O 231040Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2637
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA NIACT IMMEDATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMDIATE

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THIS MSG PASSED BUKAVU AND LUBUMBASHI BY OTHER MEANS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (SMITS, BARBARA AND KENNETH STEVE SMITH AND CARRIE HUNTER)
SUBJ: KIDNAPPED STUDENTS

REF: STATE 120641

1. GOZ WILL BE ALERGIC TO ANYTHING WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES PUBLICLY THAT REBEL PROBLEM STILL EXISTS IN ZAIRE. UNTIL WE HAVE HARD EVIDENCE WE SHOULD RESPECT ZAIRIAN SENSITIVITIES, AND IF IT DEVELOPS KIDNAPPERS ARE IN ZAIRE, WE SHOULD REFER TO THEM AS SUCH. FURTHEST GOZ LIKELY GO WOULD BE TO LABEL THEM "BANDITS".

2. BEST CHANCE TO PERSUADE GOZ BROADCAST STATEMENT WOULD PROBABLY LIE IN CASTING IT IN STRICTLY HUMANITARIAN TERMS AND IN STATING WE ASKING TANZANIA AND BURUNDI TO DIFFUSE SIMILAR STATEMENT.

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 04258 231641Z

3. WE WOULD SUGGEST SOMETHING ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

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"FOUR YOUNG STUDENTS, TWO AMERICAN GIRLS (BARBARA
SMUTS AND CARRIE HUNTER), ONE AMERICAN BOY KENNETH
STEVEN SMITH), AND ONE DUTCH GIRL (EMILIE VAN ZIN NICQ
GERGMAN) ARE MISSING IN THE LAKE TANGANYIKA AREA. IT
IS REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY UNKNOWN ARMED
MEN. ANYONE SEEING THEM OR HAVING ANY INFORMATION
REGARDING THEIR POSSIBLE WHEREABOUTS IS URGED TO INFORM THE
NEAREST LOCAL OFFICIAL OR MISSIONARY".

4. DEPT FYI: EMBASSY EXPLORING WITH AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
POSSIBILITY OF SENDING CONSULAR OFFICER TO KALEMIE ON
ZAIRIAN SIDE OF LAKE PROVIDED COMMUNICATIONS ARRANGEMENTS
CAN BE MADE. WE SEE LITTLE UTILITY IN SENDING CONSULAR
OFFICER TO AREA IF NO MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE.
IN MEANTIME, WE PRESSING GOZ HERE TO MOUNT AIR, LAKE
AND GROUND SEARCH OPERATIONS. CONSUL BUKAVU CONFIRMS
THAT INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM KINSHASA BY LOCAL OFFICIALS
TO COOPERATE.

5. WE ALSO ASKING CONSUL LUBUMBASHI AND BUKAVU TO SURVEY
ON CONTIGENCY BASIS AVAILABILITY OF MISSIONARY OR OTHER
AIRCRAFT FOR PRIVATE SEARCH OPERATIONS AND WE EXPECT HAVE
RESULTS SURVEY LATE MAY 23 OR EARLY MANY 24. UNFORTUNATELY
DAO PLANE IS DOWN WITH SERIOUS FUEL LEAK BUT ROUND-THE-CLOCK
REPAIR OPERATION IS UNDER WAY AND HOPEFULLY AIRCRAFT WILL
BE AVAILABLE SUNDAY, MAY 25. DOES DEPARTMENT WISH US
TO MOUNT WHAT IN EFFECT WOULD BE US AIR SEARCH, BEARING
IN MIND THAT AREA ON WEST SHORE LAKE TANGANYIKA
IS MOUNTANIOUS AND FOREST-COVERED AND CHANCES
OF FINDING ANYBODY FROM AIR ARE MINIMAL. INDEED, IT
STRIKES ME THAT ONLY WHEN KIDNAPPERS SOMEHOW COMMUNICATE
WITH SOMEONE WILL WE HAVE MUCH CHANCE OF LOCATING
STUDENTS. I AGREE, THEREFORE, THAT RADIO MESSAGES ALONG
LINES PARA 3 ABOVE ARE DESIRABLE AND WILL DO WHAT WE
CAN TO PERSUADE GOZ UPON RECEIPT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS.

6. DEPARTMENT AND ADDRESSES SHOULD REALIZE THAT WE ARE
PASSING GIST OF CABLES TO LUBUMBASHI AND BUKAVU VIA RADIO AS
WE HAVE NO COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY FOR CLASSIFIED OR
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PAGE 03 KINSHA 04258 231641Z

UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGES VIA OTHER MEANS.

7. AS FOR COORDINATION WITH EFFORTS FSO'S IN KIGOMA
(PARA 3 BUJUMBURA 0330), WE HAVE NO GOOD IDEAS OTHER THEN
OBVIOUS POINT THAT AS SEARCH DEVELOPS WE SHOULD
ENDEAVOR ESTABLISH RADIO NET, INCLUDING LINKS
FROM OUR PEOPLE, WHEREVER THAY MAY BE, AND KOGOMA.

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8. FINALLY, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT DEPT CALL IN
TANGANIAN, ZAIRIAN AND BURUNDI AMBASSADORS JOINTLY RPT JOINTLY
TO IMPRESS UPON THEM IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED FULL COOPERATION
FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS. IDEA WOULD BE REINFORCE PRESSURE
ON CAPITALS, PARTICULARLY KINSHASA, TO TAKE
SEARCH SERIOUSLY AND TO MAKE REGULAR RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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